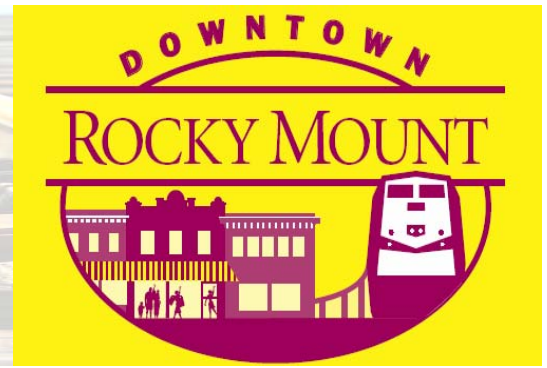


The Ties That Bind

Spring 2006 Volume 1, Issue 3



Celebrating the Latin American Diversity

The **Downtown Rocky Mount Merchant's Association** hosted their first annual Fiesta Latina on June 3, 2006. Though the day started out rainy, by the 1:00 pm start time vendors were in place and people were beginning to stroll along Main Street taking in the sights and sounds.

The Festival featured authentic Latino food, music, children's activities, informational booths from local businesses, and much more. There was a stage where local performers displayed their vocal and dancing talents. Traditional dress added to the entertainment of both the singing and the dancing. Local children, dressed as farm animals, performed a Spanish version of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm". The evening was capped by a performance by salsa group Saludos Company.

The festival was presented by the Downtown Rocky Mount Merchant's Association. Supporters of the event included Nash County Travel and Tourism, Edgecombe Community College, Nash Community College, The City of Rocky Mount, Voces Hispanas, HensonFuerst, P.A., Nash County Co-Op Extension 4H, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and WHIG.

The festival is one of two planned for this year to help bring people back to downtown. In September, the Association is planning a two day "Hands on Craft Festival" on Main Street. This festival will feature craftsmen and women making their wares in front of the public eye. Some vendors will give the public a chance to try their hand at being crafty. The festival is planned for September 15 and 16.

Stay tuned for the 4 page summer issue of *The Ties That Bind* which will feature a 2 page map of downtown properties "in play"

Kay's Restaurant Under New Management

Kay's Restaurant at 111 Tarboro Street has reopened under new ownership. Ken Redding decided to focus his attention in other areas and passed the torch to Mike Williams. Mr. Williams, originally from Williamston, has years of experience in grocery management. He is excited about the prospects for Kay's in the revitalization process of downtown Rocky Mount. Pre-existing employees Jennifer and Keith are staying on under the new management.

Gin-Lily Hair Studio

114 N. W. Main Street has a new business. Gin-Lily Hair Studio opened May 23. Many locals know this location as the old Rocky Mount Floral Company. The building is owned by Darin and Elizabeth Scott, who renovated the building and brought it back to life.

Ginger Roberson and her husband Chris are the co-owners of Gin-Lily Hair Studio. Ginger has an associate degree in cosmetology from Edgecombe Community College. Gin-Lily currently has two full time stylists though Ginger looks forward to expanding her business and hiring additional stylists.

Check out the salon and welcome Ginger and stylist Misty Hudson to downtown or call in advance and make an appointment at 451-Lily (5459).

Paulette Wilford, owner of CW The Store invites everyone to share in her grand opening at her new location at 302 SW Main Street. Come celebrate at the store with Paulette August 1 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Ian Kipp, Downtown Development Manager

331 South Franklin Street
P.O. Box 1180
Rocky Mount, NC 27802-1180
Phone: (252) 972-1267
Fax: (252) 972-1173
Email: kipp@ci.rocky-mount.nc.us
Website: www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us

People's Bank Building Completed

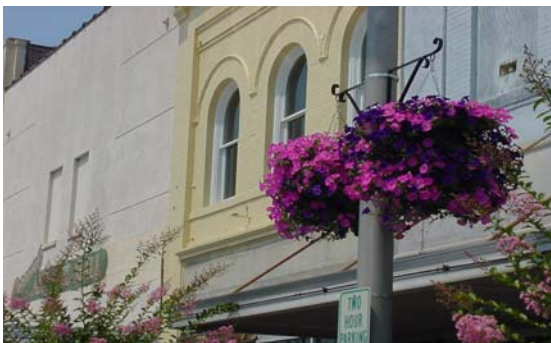
May 2nd saw the Self-Help Credit Union celebrating the re-opening of the Old People's Bank Building on Main and Tarboro Streets. The 1918 Beaux Arts building features 20,000 square feet of leasable space which is 95% leased to Golden Leaf Foundation, Edgecombe Community Colleges Workforce Investment Program and Bridging the Gap to name some of the tenants. The tenants will move into the building in June and July. The addition of the flag on top of the building, which is bathed in lights at night, is a welcome sight. Best wishes to Ben Grinnell, who is leaving Self-Help for other opportunities.

ECU Students Design On Display

ECU Interior Design students have completed their work in creating interior designs of existing properties on Main Street. Currently on display in the Atrium of City Hall are the color renderings, elevation drawings and 3-D models that the students have completed. The properties which were studied are the old Low's Building at 125 NE Main Street, 119, 121, and 125 SE Main Street and 152-4 and 158 SW Main Street.

UNC Business School Market Study

Four students from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill completed a market study that resulted in marketing material that can be used as an information resource to investors. Their study assessed the current economic situation in the Downtown, incorporating public and private planned improvements and investment and overall market trends to assess potential opportunities for growth. The plan can be viewed by contacting Downtown Development Manager Ian Kipp at 252-972-1267.



The lovely hanging flower basket program that started last summer is back! Coupled with the flowering crepe myrtle trees, there are lots of bold colors flanking the downtown streets.

Davis Furniture To Expose 60 Windows

Davis Furniture Company, located at 163 S E Main Street is getting a facelift. Owner Doug Davis is taking advantage of available grant money and having the 60 2nd and 3rd floor windows of his building restored. The windows are "Chicago" style double-hung windows. They have been hiding under large pieces of plywood for a long time, but now the work has begun. Though not visible from the street, David Weaver, a local Rocky Mount carpenter, has been working since June 6th on the project. The initial work must be done on the inside and completed before the plywood can be taken down. Once the interior work is done and the plywood removed, downtown Rocky Mount will have new eyes watching over her.



David Weaver working on windows at Davis Furniture.



City Opens Senior Center in old YMCA

On May 31st, the City opened the new Senior Center at 427 South Church Street in downtown Rocky Mount. Six years ago the city began a senior center program offering recreational services for older residents. Without a physical location properly suited to host activities, the initiative's potential was limited. When the YMCA announced plans to vacate the downtown location, City leaders had the vision to see the old YMCA building as a new home for the Senior Center.

Renovations have been going on since the old YMCA closed. The pool and basketball court have been open since November. The majority of the work has been done by Cathy Oxendine and her three person staff with a host of volunteers. Though not complete, the work that has been completed has opened a door for Rocky Mount seniors. For more information contact Cathy Oxendine at 442-2516.

